

## **Skillet Handle Trail Guide**

*Skillet Handle Elevation: Approximately 4200 feet*

**There are three distinct trails that run parallel to one another on the Skillet Handle.**

**The Main Trail (GR 19)** is located in the center of the Skillet Handle, with a two-track path that is designated for walking and mountain biking. It is the easiest walking trail and extends to the very end of the Skillet Handle. The total length to the end is about 2.5 miles one-way. Many choose to take this as an "out-and-back" hike/mountain bike ride.

**The Birding Trail (18)** is located adjacent to Klamath Lake and begins next to the horse corral. Look for the stake that marks it. It is a very easy path to travel for the first mile and **should not** be used by bikes.

**The Horseback Riding Trail** is located to the west of the Main Trail (left as you begin hiking from the trailhead). It is harder to follow now as the horseback riding did not take place during the summer of 2020. This path is primarily used for horseback riding (Memorial Day through Labor Day). If you encounter horseback riders, simply stop, stay on the trail, call out and say hello to let the horses (and guide) know that you are there. They will deviate from the path to go around you.

### **Birding Trail and Main Trail Loops**

**Short Loop**-Take the Birding Trail that begins by the horse corral to the short loop cutoff. Take a left at the Short Loop sign to get to the Main Trail only 60 yards away. Total hike distance of 1.5 miles, about 1 hour.

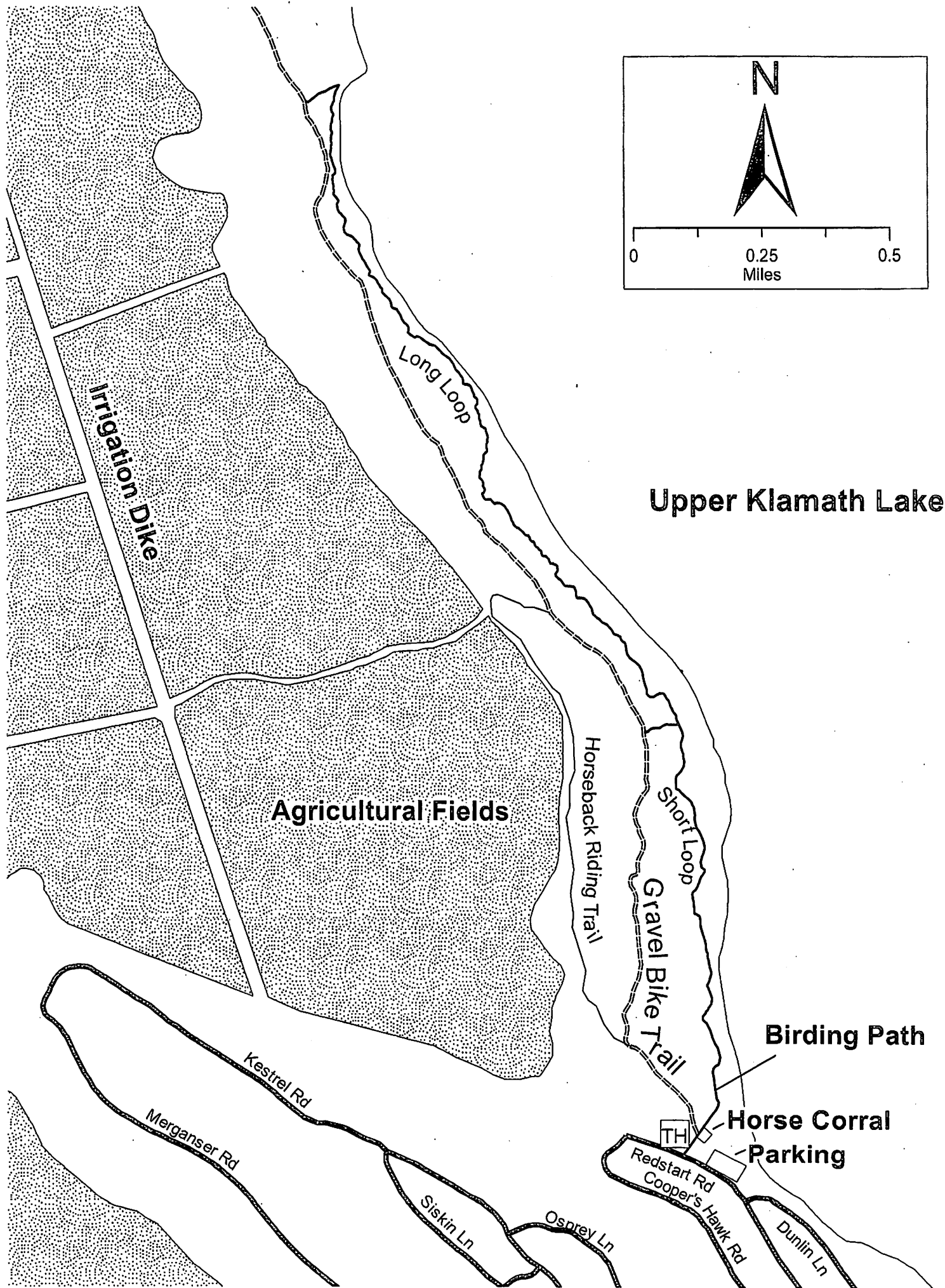
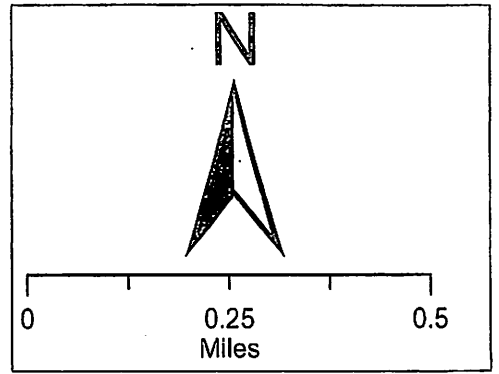
**Long Loop**-Take the Birding Trail 2.0 miles north. Follow the pink trail markers and do not take the cutoff at the 1.0-mile mark (Short Loop sign). At the 2.0 mile point, the Birding Trail meets the Main Trail. Take a left at the junction of the Main Trail for a return to the trailhead (1.6 miles). Total hike distance: 3.6 miles, about 2 hours.

**Meadowview Extension**-If you are interested in a short extension from the junction of the Birding Trail and the Main Trail continue north, about one-tenth of a mile. You will see a double track trail that forks to the right and toward the lake and Meadowview Outlook. The total distance one way from the junction of the Main Trail and Birding Trail is .15 miles. This extension offers a beautiful lakeside meadow and a boulder-strewn lakeshore location.

**Trees of the Skillet Handle**-Trees that abound on the Skillet Handle include Ponderosa Pine, Juniper, Oregon White Oak (which mostly grow in clusters), Incense Cedar, and Aspen. Hikers may notice many junipers have been cut down to allow oak and ponderosa to expand into open areas. Some residual burn piles can be seen from the juniper thinning effort that occurred during the summer/fall of 2017. Juniper piles were burned winter 2018-19 and 2019-20.

**Common Skillet Handle Birds**- California Quail, Turkey Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Bald Eagle, Eurasian Mourning Dove, Red-breasted Sapsucker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Western Wood-Pewee, Steller's Jay, California Scrub-jay, Common Raven, Tree Swallow, Mountain Chickadee, Dark-eyed Junco, White-breasted Nuthatch, Marsh Wren, Bewick's Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, American Robin, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Chipping Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Spotted Towhee, Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Red-winged Blackbird, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Cassin's Finch.

*Version 10-December 15, 2020-Don Johnson-Writer/Editor*



**Upper Klamath Lake**

**Agricultural Fields**

**Irrigation Dike**

Long Loop

Horseback Riding Trail

Short Loop

Gravel Bike Trail

**Birding Path**

**Horse Corral  
Parking**

Kestrel Rd

Merganser Rd

Siskin Ln

Osprey Ln

Redstart Rd  
Cooper's Hawk Rd

Dunlin Ln